

milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

11. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the step of administering to a patient having a disorder associated with diarrhoea a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

12. (Once Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus *Lactobacillus* having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses or a supernatant of a culture thereof.

13. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is part of a composition which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding, and liquid tube feeding.

Please add newly submitted Claims 14-22 as follows:

14. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain is capable of adhering to the intestinal mucosa of a host organism and essentially colonize it.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain is capable to grow in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.

16. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

17. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei*.

18. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein the *Lactobacillus* strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei* CNCM I-2116 (NCC 2461).

19. The method according to claim 7 wherein the ingestible support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk-based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based product, and infant formulae.

20. A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhoea in a patient at risk of same comprising the step of administering a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus